implemented with effect from 01.04.2005 to provide an allowance to insured persons who were in insurable employment for five years and lose their job involuntarily due to retrenchment, closure of factories/establishments and permanent disability. The allowance is payable at the standard benefit rates (sickness benefit rate) which is approximately 50% of the average daily wages earned by the insured person, which is payable for a maximum period of six months during the entire insured period of the worker.

(f) The scheme having been recently started and all those eligible insured persons who have been rendered jobless immediately after 01.04.2005 are eligible to apply for unemployment allowance after being unemployed for a maximum of one month.

**Creation of Employment Opportunities**

†3167. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of non achievement of 8 percent targeted annual growth rate of Tenth Five Year Plan, creation of new employment opportunities would not be as per set target;

(b) if so, the the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) estimates of less creation of employment opportunities as a result of low annual growth rate as compared to the set target?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The target of 8% growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per annum has been set for the entire 10th Plan period (2002-07) as a whole. GDP growth achieved during 2002-03, 2003-04 was around 4 % and 8.5% respectively. It is expected that during the entire period of the 10th Plan, the targetted growth of 8% on an average may be achieved.

**Unemployed youths registered with Employment Exchanges**

†3168. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the latest position of the Employment Exchanges of all the states, the number of registered educated unemployed persons is approximately four crore at present;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.